



USCGC BERTHOLF

NEWSLETTER



BERTHOLF is placed in Commission Special during a ceremony on May 8th. Photo by PA3 Anderson

May 19th, 2008 – Welcome aboard U.S. Coast Guard Cutter BERTHOLF (WMSL-750), the first of the Legend Class Cutters!

On May 8th, a ceremony was held on the flight deck of BERTHOLF where RADM Gary Blore directed CAPT Stadt and the crew to place USCGC BERTHOLF in Commission Special. This intermediary status allows the crew to move aboard and crew the ship in preparation to sail BERTHOLF to her homeport of Alameda, California. The 118 crewmembers that were attached to BERTHOLF during this significant event have now been designated as “Plankowners”.



During the ceremony, the first inport duty section assumed the watch and immediately began implementing the daily routine. Watchstanders began making rounds of the cutter and checking the machinery to ensure the equipment was functioning properly. We also continued our Damage Control training, conducting our first fire drill shortly after the conclusion of the ceremony.

Additionally, crewmembers began moving their personal gear onboard as well as continuing the equipment onload process. There have been over 400 4'x4'x4' boxes loaded onboard BERTHOLF using the cranes at the shipyard. The crew opened the boxes



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and distributed the gear to their designated spaces onboard the ship. Some of the items that have been loaded have included tools for the engine rooms, flat screen TVs for every berthing area, pots and pans for the galley, weapons and ammunition for our boarding teams, and navigation gear and signaling flags for the bridge. Since we've begun moving our gear onboard, our draft has lowered by nearly a foot!

Aside from drills and the onload process, the crew has worked on making the ship a livable space. We've gotten our computers and email up and working, phones will be installed shortly, and we even have satellite television to watch in our down time. There are a few items that we are still installing in the dining areas, but as a crew we've managed to hold a celebratory meal of steak and crab legs. We're getting a few final tweaks here and there and then we'll be wrapping up the shipyard work.

This has been a challenging period of time, but extremely rewarding as we have been able see all of our hard work finally come to fruition. We anticipate getting underway for the first time as a crew on 21 May, and we're all looking forward to it. Over the next few weeks we will share our underway experiences with you; wish us luck on our journey to achieving full mission readiness!



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"Legends Begin Here"

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